

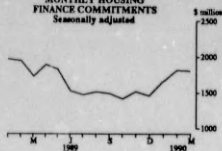
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 14 June 1990

The week in statistics ...

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MONTHLY HOUSING
FINANCE COMMITMENTS
Seasonally adjusted



Housing finance down slightly

March 1990 seasonally adjusted housing finance commitments were down \$9.1 million (0.5%) on February 1990 but up \$78.9 million (4.6%) on March 1989.

Banks recorded a small increase of 2.4 per cent on February 1990 while permanent building societies and other lenders decreased by 0.7 per cent and 14.6 per cent respectively.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, MARCH 1990
Seasonally adjusted

Type of lender	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
All banks	1,382.9	2.4	1.8
Permanent building societies	189.4	-0.7	2.5
Other lenders	234.2	-14.6	27.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,806.5</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>

Trend estimates of the number of dwellings financed showed a small increase in December 1989 for the third month in a row. Trend estimates for more recent months are not reliable enough for publication.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the number of dwellings financed in March was 3.6 per cent below the number financed one year earlier.

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (5609.0)*, or contact Pat Fitzgerald on (06) 252 7117.

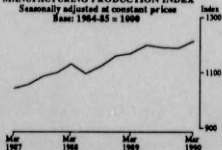
Moderate growth in manufacturing production

The constant price value of manufacturing industry production rose by 2.3 per cent in the March quarter 1990 in seasonally adjusted terms. This followed slight falls over the two previous quarters.

Seven of the twelve industry subdivisions of manufacturing recorded growth in the index for the March quarter, the largest rises occurring in the transport equipment industry (up 13.7% after two quarters of contraction) and the textile industry (up 12.8% after a small rise in the December quarter).

The 'other machinery and equipment' industry recorded the largest fall (down 8.2%) for the March quarter.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION INDEX
Seasonally adjusted at constant prices
Base: 1984-85 = 1990



Since the March quarter 1989, the seasonally adjusted index has increased by 3.8 per cent. Over this period, significant growth in the index was recorded for transport equipment (up 17.0%), and textiles (up 13.7%). A significant fall was recorded over this period for clothing and footwear (down 14.0%).

For further information, order the publication *Quarterly Indexes of Manufacturing Production, Australia (8219.0)*, or contact Alan Tryde on (06) 252 6801.

Strong growth in export volumes in March quarter

The volume of Australia's exports of goods and services, as measured at average 1984-85 prices, rose by 5.7 per cent in March quarter 1990, while imports rose 3.5 per cent, in seasonally adjusted terms. Before seasonal adjustment the volume of exports rose by 2.2 per cent while imports fell by 2.7 per cent.

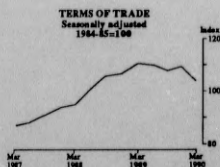
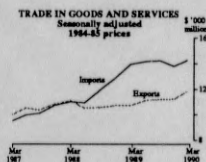
On a seasonally adjusted basis and at average 1984-85 prices, merchandise exports increased by 6.2 per cent in volume. This was due mainly to a rise in non-rural exports, with only a marginal increase in rural exports. Within non-rural exports, mineral fuels grew strongly. Merchandise imports grew in volume by 4.0 per cent mainly as a result of higher imports of machinery and transport equipment.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES
Seasonally adjusted, average 1984-85 prices
\$ million

	December qtr 1989	March qtr 1990	Percentage change
Merchandise exports	9,227	9,801	6.2
Services, credits	1,990	2,051	3.1
Total exports of goods and services	11,217	11,852	5.7
Merchandise imports	10,794	11,222	4.0
Services, debits	2,989	3,041	1.7
Total imports of goods and services	13,783	14,263	3.5

Australia's terms of trade fell by 4.9 per cent during the quarter and have fallen by 6.0 per cent since the March quarter 1989. (The *terms of trade* is a ratio of the implicit price deflator for exported goods and services over the implicit price deflator for imported goods and services).

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia (5302.0)*, or contact either Zia Abbasi on (06) 252 6689 or Neil Batty on (06) 252 5540.



Employment and unemployment both continue to rise

Labour force estimates for May show increases in both employment and unemployment. The unemployment rate and the labour force participation rate, both of which had risen in April, showed further increases, with the participation rate rising by 0.4 percentage points to reach a record 63.8 per cent seasonally adjusted.

Compared with April 1990, total employment in May 1990 rose by 42,100 to 7,903,100 in seasonally adjusted terms. The underlying trend remains steady. The main features of this change are:

- ☐ male employment rose by 22,300 to 4,643,000
- ☐ males employed full time rose by 15,200
- ☐ female employment rose by 19,900 to 3,260,200
- ☐ females employed full time rose by 26,100
- ☐ females employed part time fell by 6,200.

Trend estimates of full-time employment have increased by 1.3 per cent in the past year while part-time employment has risen by 6.2 per cent.

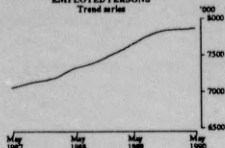
The estimated number of unemployed persons, seasonally adjusted, rose in May by 25,700 to 546,100. Male unemployment stood at 311,400 and female unemployment rose by 17,500 to 234,700. The number of females looking for part-time work rose by 13,600. The unemployment rate was 6.5 per cent compared with 6.2 per cent in April.

LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

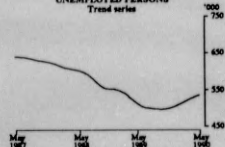
	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate	Particip- ation rate
	Full time workers	Part-time workers — '000 —	Total			
1990 —						
February	6,198.4	1,656.9	7,855.3	542.0	6.5	63.7
March	6,184.1	1,632.9	7,816.9	510.0	6.1	63.1
April	6,196.6	1,664.4	7,861.0	520.4	6.2	63.4
May	6,237.9	1,665.2	7,903.1	546.1	6.5	63.8

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia*, Preliminary (6202.0), or contact Don Clark on (06) 252 6525.

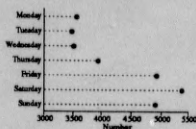
EMPLOYED PERSONS
Trend series



UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
Trend series



PERSONS INJURED BY
DAY OF WEEK, 1988



Road traffic accident casualties — the detailed picture

The number of persons killed in road traffic accidents in Australia during 1988 was 2,887, an increase of 4.1 per cent (115) over the number killed in 1987. Road traffic accident injuries increased by only 7 to 29,705, but this was the highest number of injuries recorded since 1982.

The consolidated 1988 data reveals that the largest number of injuries occurred in the evening peak time between 4pm and 6pm, when a large proportion of vehicles would be using the roads.

The number of injuries tended to rise during the course of the week, reaching a peak on Saturday.

PERSONS KILLED AND INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS, 1988

	Persons Killed		Persons Injured	
	Number	Percentage change from 1987	Number	Percentage change from 1987
New South Wales	1,037	8.1	8,668	-1.4
Victoria	701	-0.6	10,333	4.5
Queensland	539	21.9	4,255	6.7
South Australia	223	-12.9	2,590	-11.1
Western Australia	230	8.0	2,590	-1.7
Tasmania	75	-2.6	649	-17.1
Northern Territory	51	-39.3	428	-15.7
Australian Capital Territory	31	-13.9	192	-2.0
Australia	2,887	4.1	29,705	0

For 1988:

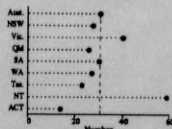
- ☐ the number of persons killed per 100,000 population was 17.5, compared with 17.0 for 1987,
- ☐ the number of persons killed per 10,000 motor vehicles registered was unchanged from the previous year (3.0),
- ☐ the number of persons killed per 1,000 million kilometres travelled was 14.6, down from 15.6 in 1987.

The Northern Territory recorded the highest and the Australian Capital Territory recorded the lowest rates for each of the above three measures.

Summary data for periods up to April 1990 are available from the monthly ABS publication *Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Australia* (9401.0) and show road accident deaths are now at record low levels.

For further information, order the publication *Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties, Australia, 1988* (9405.0), or contact Choon Looi on (06) 252 5458.

PERSONS INJURED PER 10,000 MOTOR
VEHICLES REGISTERED, 1988



Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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ABS State Offices

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Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Statistics Weekly
14 June 1990

All the week's releases: 6 to 12 June

General

- Publications Issued in May 1990 (1102.0; \$5.00)
- Statistics Weekly, 7 June 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
- Economic Indicators, Vic., May 1990 (1307.2; \$5.00)

Demography

- Australian Demographic Statistics, December Qtr 1989 (3101.0; \$10.00)
- Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., March 1990 (3401.0; \$5.00)
- Estimated Resident Population in Statistical Local Areas, WA, 30 June 1989, Preliminary (3204.5; \$5.00)

Social statistics

- Schools, Aust., 1989 (4221.0; \$15.50)
- Court Statistics, Tas., 1989 (4508.6; \$10.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Balance of Payments, Aust., March Qtr 1990 (5302.0; \$16.50)
- Imports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables, April 1990 (5433.0; \$8.00)
- Government Financial Estimates, Aust., 1989-90 (Re-issue) (5501.0; free)
- Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., March 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)
- Corrigendum: Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales, March Quarter 1990 and Expected Sales to December 1990, Aust. (5629.0; \$8.50)

Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Australia, May 1990, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.50)
- The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, May 1990 (6271.0; \$60.00)
- Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, March Qtr 1990 (6403.0; \$5.00)

Agriculture

- Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, April 1990 (7204.3; \$3.30)
- Principal Agricultural Commodities, SA, 1989-90, Preliminary (7111.4; \$8.00)
- Principal Agricultural Commodities, Tas., 1989-90, Preliminary (7111.6; \$5.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Quarterly Indexes of Manufacturing Production, Aust., March Qtr 1990 (8219.0; \$7.50)
- Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, April 1990 (8504.0; \$5.00)
- Production Statistics, NSW, March 1990 (8304.1; \$5.00)
- Building Approvals, Qld, April 1990 (8731.3; \$8.50)
- Tourist Accommodation, WA, March Qtr 1990, Preliminary (8636.5; \$3.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, February 1990, Preliminary (8740.4; \$3.30)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, March 1990, Preliminary (8740.4; \$3.30)

Transport

- Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties (Admissions to Hospitals), Aust., 1988 (9405.0; \$18.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 26 June 1990

- 14** Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, March Qtr 1990 (5222.0; \$8.00)
Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary, March Qtr 1990 (8750.0; \$5.00)
- 18** Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, February 1990 (6302.0; \$8.50)
Retail Trade, Australia, April 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
- 25** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, April 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)
- 26** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, April 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0; \$3.75)

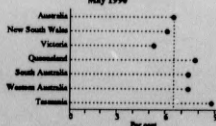
The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
12 June 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 89)*	0.6	5.0	27.4	24.3	-6.9	-34.5	n.a.	n.a.	4.4
Retail turnover (Mar. 90) (trend estimate)	8.0	5.7	8.7	5.0	5.6	7.7	n.a.	8.4	6.9
New motor vehicle registrations (Apr. 90)*	-2.1	56.7	3.8	29.6	-1.4	n.a.	-4.0	16.7	15.5
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Apr. 90)	-25.4	-38.7	-28.3	-11.5	-55.8	-18.4	7.6	-10.6	-32.5
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr)	20.3	13.7	15.6	23.4	24.1	9.1	15.9	5.6	17.6
Employed persons (May 90)*	1.8	2.3	3.7	2.4	2.0	5.0	-2.1	3.7	2.4
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 90)	9.1	8.7	7.8	6.9	9.1	7.2	6.2	8.3	8.6
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (November 89)	7.9	6.8	3.7	6.9	6.4	4.7	2.6	4.6	6.6
Population (Dec. 89)	0.9	1.3	3.1	1.1	2.8	0.9	-0.1	2.2	1.6
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Sept. qtr 89)	-8.5	19.0	-24.5	13.8	4.5	-6.6	2.1	-6.7	-7.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
May 1990



Statistics Weekly
14 June 1990

Key national indicators – consolidated to 12 June 1990

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
				Period			
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 90	89,263	94,113	2.3	9.8
	— 1984-85 prices			62,030	65,441	1.8	4.4
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 90	6,163	6,947	-2.9	-3.0
	— 1984-85 prices			4,631	5,209	-4.3	-8.7
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to June 90	8,170	n.a.	n.a.	-2.7
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Mar. 90	6,914	6,992	0.0	6.1
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 90	14,013	14,836	0.0	1.4
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	Apr. 90	47,254	53,940	-6.3	15.5
Dwelling unit approvals		"	"	9,993	11,231	-5.9	-27.4
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	1,853	1,988	0.6	-19.6
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Dec. qtr 89	8,109	7,741	-0.4	17.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,248	5,010	-2.3	6.5
Manufacturers' sales		"	Mar. qtr 90	33,133	36,124	2.4	8.3
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to June 90	36,461	n.a.	n.a.	6.3
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	May 90	7,916.1	7,903.1	0.5	2.4
Unemployment rate †	%	"	"	6.5	6.5	0.3	0.3
Participation rate †	%	"	"	64.0	63.8	0.4	0.5
Job vacancies		'000	Feb. 90	60.9	56.1	-15.0	-15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	"	1.4	1.4	-8.7	-3.5
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 90	204.1	n.a.	1.7	8.6
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Mar. 90	121.5	n.a.	0.6	5.7
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0		Mar. 90	567.8	n.a.	0.9	6.6
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Mar. qtr 90	3,668	4,633	9.0	2.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	Feb. 90	524.80	n.a.	1.6	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Apr. 90	15.05	n.a.	-0.4	-2.2
10-year Treasury bonds †			"	13.80	n.a.	0.4	0.4
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Apr. 90	4,181	4,115	6.2	2.6
Imports of merchandise		"	"	3,777	4,047	-8.7	-6.4
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	404	68	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	89	-279	70.5	54.9
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,018	-1,417	35.2	15.2
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 90	n.a.	104.0	-4.9	-6.1
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	31 Mar. 90	123,570	n.a.	5.3	15.3
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	163,453	n.a.	2.8	17.5
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
\$US	per \$A		Apr. 90	0.7641	n.a.	1.1	-5.0
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	60.6	n.a.	1.8	-0.5
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		Dec. 89	16.9	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Overseas visitors	'000		Mar. 90	189	179	2.0	9.1

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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